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EXPERIMENT STATION

TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

BULLETIN No. 26, 1915

A NEW AND PROLIFIC VARIETY OF COTTON



IMPROVED COTTON

LASLIE & PREER

Cotton Factors

Tuskegee, Alabama

Prof. G. W. Carver,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

March 22, 1915.

Dear Sir:- We received from you to-day one bale of cotton raised on the Experiment Station.

We wish to state that this bale of cotton is extra good staple, being 1 to 1 1-16 of an inch in length, and shows that it has been nicely handled as regards picking and ginning. If all the cotton in this section was thus harvested and ginned, it would bring on an average of \$1.25 more per bale.

We are enclosing check for this cotton at \$1.25, but will state that, being only one bale in so many of only average staple, we cannot handle it to any better advantage because of this extra staple. Thanking you, we are,

Yours very truly,

LASLIE & PREER

With an average crop year this would mean for Alabama nearly 1 1-2 million dollars, and for Macon County alone over \$39,000.



No. 260



about the
Grand old
cane.

The first is
captioned "Alabama
The second implies
and happiness, and in
Feed Herself."

Were I asked to submit a third, I would
certainly add this one; "More Cotton, Less
Cost, and Better Prices." Such a condition
is impossible, and it is the purpose of this
to tell how it can be done.

History

Sixteen years ago the Experiment Station de-
dertook the production of a type of cotton that
would possess the following characteristics:

1. A longer and finer staple.
2. A more prolific variety.
3. A disease resistant variety.
4. A cotton that produces well on light sandy
soils.
5. An early maturing variety that would
more or less the ravages of the boll weevil.

In all the above matters a marked degree of suc-
cess has been obtained.



the cotton is raised in the same locality as the cotton varieties known. As the cotton is raised in the same locality, from whence the cotton seed is obtained, the cotton seed will be of the same quality.

How to make large yields from this cotton

This cotton like all other varieties, produces good or bad in proportion to the proper or improper preparation, fertilization, and after-cultivation of the soil.

Preparation of the Soil

In this it is safe to say that fully two-thirds of our farmers fail. They fail, first, because they do not turn (broadcast) their land in the fall, just as soon as the crop is off; second, they do not plow deep enough. Plowing should be from 8 to 10 inches deep.

Fertilization

In addition to a well-prepared seed-bed, the land must be well fertilized if large crops are expected. By "large crops" I mean from 1 to 1 1-2, and in favorable localities, 2 bales per acre. There is an abundance of land in Macon and adjoining counties that can be made to produce two bales of 500 lbs. lint per acre.

Barnyard manure is the very best fertilizer known for cotton, and, on an average, our soils will require from 15 to 20 tons per acre. This should be spread over the land and plowed under. Where the soils do not wash and are not leachy, the manure can

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the tap root going deep in the ground. On the prepared soil, it throws out numerous roots, often four and five feet in length, the greater number of which as a rule are just below the surface of the ground, hence the wisdom of shallow cultivation.

Off Grade

The following things cause cotton to bring a lower price per pound than it otherwise would, and the farmer can and should avoid every one of them.

Immature Cotton

Cotton growers divide their pickings into three divisions known as "crops"—viz., the first bolls to open are called the bottom crop; the second, the middle crop; and the third, the top crop. The bottom and middle crops are nearly always the choicest staple. The top crop is the poorest, as it is frequently immature. Such should be kept ginned and sold separately, as it lowers the price of it all when mixed with the bottom and middle crops. Bolls of cotton picked before they are well open and those that do not open before frost, usually contain a large number of unripe fibers.

Foreign Impurities

Another important factor in determining the grade of cotton is, its freedom from foreign impuri-

This probably affects the
other one thing. Some look
on color, the highest grade being
If cotton can be picked before
it, it will be very choice in color.

Tinges, Stains, Etc.

Cotton that has tufts in it that are off color, as pink, green, yellow, etc., is called tinged. When the color is very deep and general throughout, it is classed as stained. Both conditions originate practically from the same source; viz., immature hot juices from crushed seed - water dripping from the leaves of the stalk, frosted cotton, cotton that has been put into large piles and allowed to sweat and mildew. All these materially reduce the price as well as poor seed, bad preparation of the soil, insufficient fertilizers, late planting, poor cultivation, etc.

We hope the letter on the cover will inspire every cotton grower to set about at once to raise the standard of his cotton, in both quantity per acre and quality of fiber, which means greater prosperity for the State, more money for the county, and greater peace and happiness for the individual farmer.

